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NOV.
NO. 16APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE

AUTHORITY

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

*"The INCREDIBLE
METAL CREATURE!"*

HOLD TIGHT, PALS! I
HOPE *THARK'S* FORCE-RAY
SPHERE WORKS AGAINST
THAT MASS OF METAL
MUSCLES!



Test your talent!



Contest prize:
\$495.00 Scholarship
in Commercial Art

Draw your choice of any one of these heads. Draw it any size except like a tracing. Use pencil. Everyone who enters contest gets a professional estimate of his talent without charge. Winner receives a complete art course—free training in advertising art, illustrating, cartooning, or painting. Try for this free art course! Students are taught, individually, by professional artists on the staff of world's largest home study art school. Illustrated art textbooks come with the course. Many former students now earn upwards from \$150 a week as commercial artists. Contest is sponsored to uncover hidden talent. Entries for October 1960 contest must be received by October 31. None returned. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Winner notified. Mail your drawing today.

Use 1 coupon—then pass this page on to a friend.

3. Art Instruction, Inc., Studio 8500 500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.

Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____
Occupation _____ AGE _____
Address _____ Apt. _____
City _____ Zone _____
County _____ State _____

2. Art Instruction, Inc., Studio 8500 500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.

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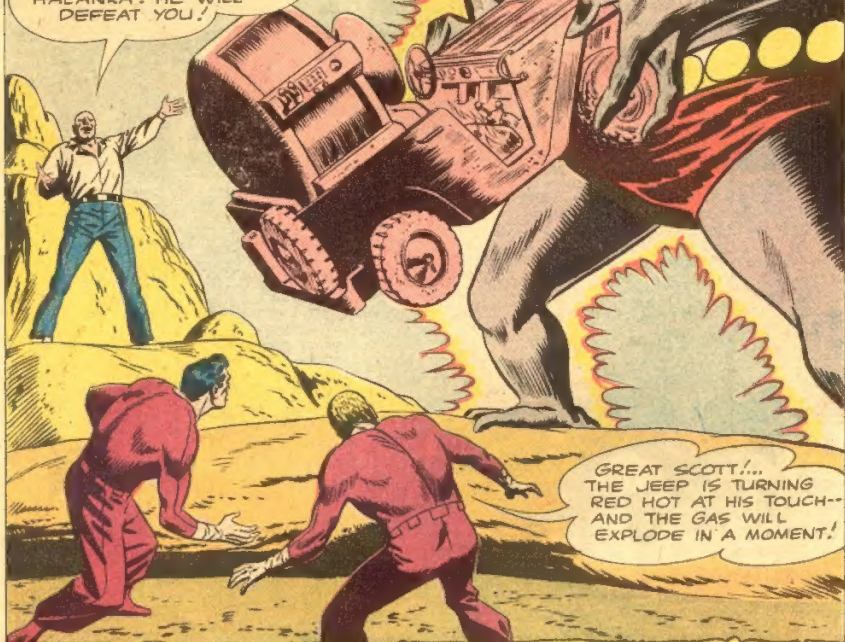
Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____
Occupation _____ AGE _____
Address _____ Apt. _____
City _____ Zone _____
County _____ State _____

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

"HA, HA." SEE?... YOU
CANNOT STAND AGAINST
HALANKA! HE WILL
DEFEAT YOU!"



FROM A DISTANT ASTEROID HE CAME, WITH POWERS CAPABLE OF VANQUISHING AN ARMY! SMALL WONDER THAT THOSE FOUR FEARLESS FIGHTERS, THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, NEARLY WENT TO THEIR DEATHS AT THE HANDS OF...

the INCREDIBLE METAL CREATURE

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ONE MORNING, AS A SLEEK JET PLANE PUTS DOWN IN A CLEARING BETWEEN JAGGED HILLS...

THERE'S THE JEEP WE RADIOED THE SHERIFF TO HAVE WAITING FOR US!

WE'LL NEED ONE WHERE WE'RE GOING! WE COULD NEVER LAND A PLANE THERE!

OUT CAME FOUR FAMOUS MEN... ACE MORGAN, CRACK JET PILOT--PROF MALEY, RENOWNED DEEP SEA DIVER--ROCKY DAVIS, WORLD WRESTLING CHAMP--AND RED RYAN, CONQUEROR OF MOUNTAINS... THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!

LET'S GO!



LOOK, ACE...WE'RE AFTER THIS GUY ALBOM BECAUSE HE STOLE A MACHINE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HELP PEOPLE! BUT HE'S A CROOK...SO WHAT'S HE UP TO?

I'LL EXPLAIN, ROCKY...

THE MACHINE IS CALLED **ELCODO**--SHORT FOR **ELEMENTS CONTROL DEVICE**! IT CAN PREVENT OR CONTROL EARTHQUAKES, TORNADOES AND OTHER NATURAL VIOLENCES... BUT IF ALBOM GETS HOLD OF CERTAIN ORES, HE CAN **REVERSE ELCODO** AND **CREATE** SUCH VIOLENCES!

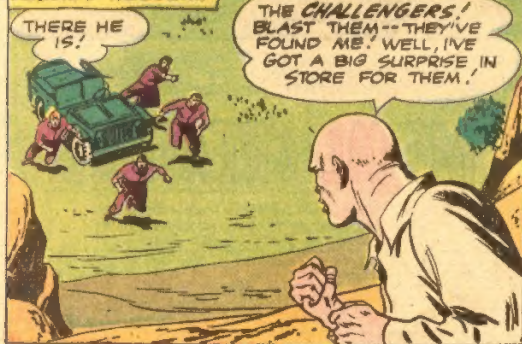
AND USE THEM FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES, EH? BOY, IT'S LUCKY WE LEARNED WHERE HIS HIDEOUT IS!

SHORTLY AS THE JEEP SQUEALS TO A STOP BEFORE ALBOM'S HIDEOUT...

THERE HE IS!

THE CHALLENGERS! BLAST THEM--THEY'VE FOUND ME! WELL, I'VE GOT A BIG SURPRISE IN STORE FOR THEM!

HALANKA! HALANKA!



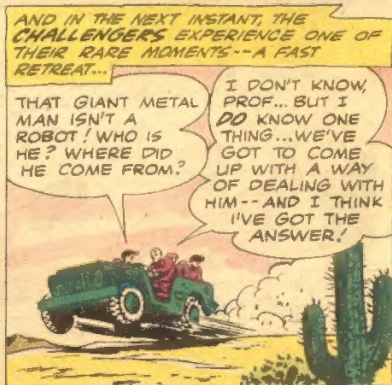


BUT AS THE WHOLE TEAM FLOWS IN...





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



SHORTLY, IN A NEARBY TOWN...

WITH THIS GADGET TAKING UP SO MUCH ROOM, ONLY TWO OF US CAN RIDE! PROF AND RED WILL NEED ANOTHER JEEP!

IT'S A GOOD IDEA ANYWAY, ACE-- IN CASE WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP!

IRON WORKS

BUT BY THE TIME THEY RETURN TO ALBOM'S HIDEOUT...

THAT GENTLE PAIR HAS SCRAMMED, ACE! THERE ARE TIRE TRACKS LEADING AWAY FROM HERE!

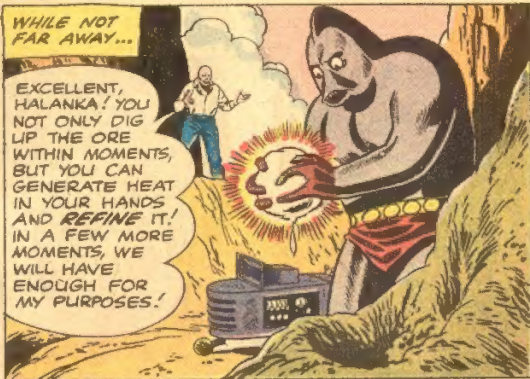
AND OTHER TRACKS LEADING OFF IN THIS DIRECTION! MAYBE ALBOM AND HIS METAL MAN SEPARATED... BUT WHY?

WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW BOTH SETS OF TRACKS! ROCKY, YOU AND I WILL TAKE ONE JEEP, WHILE PROF AND RED TAKE THE OTHER! LET'S MOVE FAST... WE WANT TO STOP ALBOM BEFORE HE PUTS THAT DEVICE TO WORK!



WHILE NOT FAR AWAY...

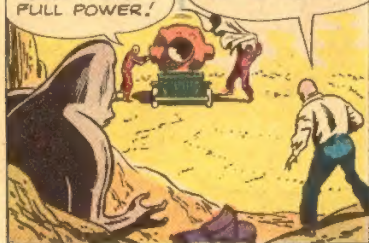
EXCELLENT, HALANKA! YOU NOT ONLY DIG UP THE ORE WITHIN MOMENTS, BUT YOU CAN GENERATE HEAT IN YOUR HANDS AND REFINES IT! IN A FEW MORE MOMENTS, WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH FOR MY PURPOSES!



BUT SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, A JEEP SQUEALS TO A HALT, AND...

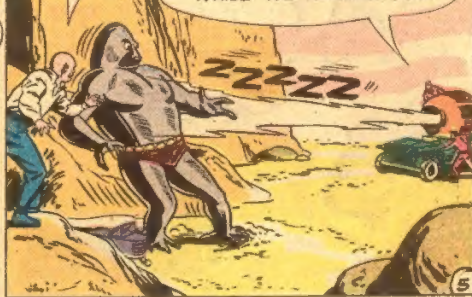
UNCOVER IT, ROCKY-- THEN STAND BACK! I'M GOING TO TURN IT ON-- FULL POWER!

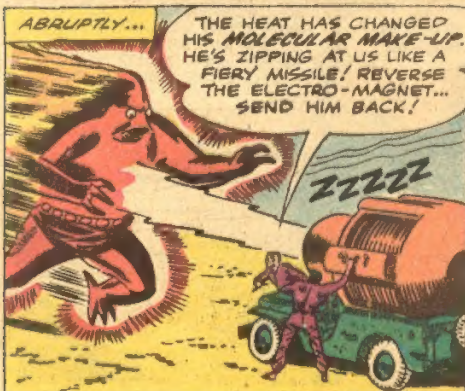
TWO OF THE CHALLENGERS-- BACK AGAIN! WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?

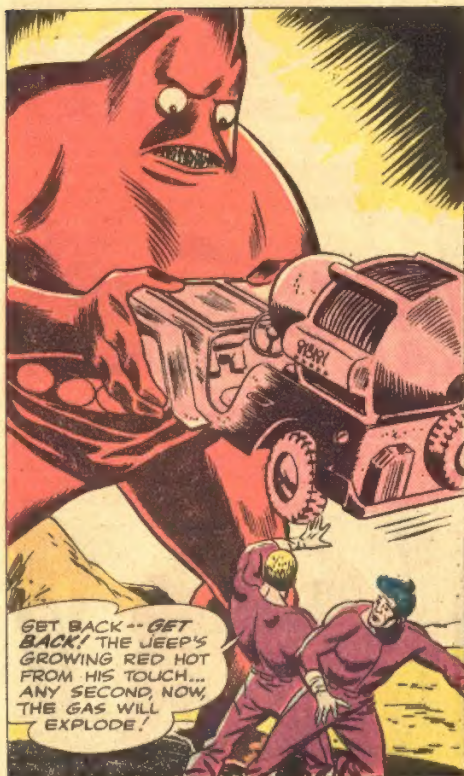


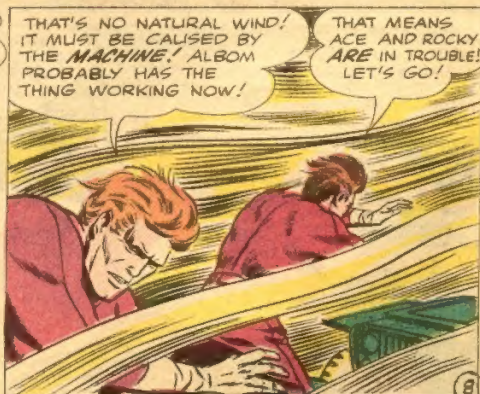
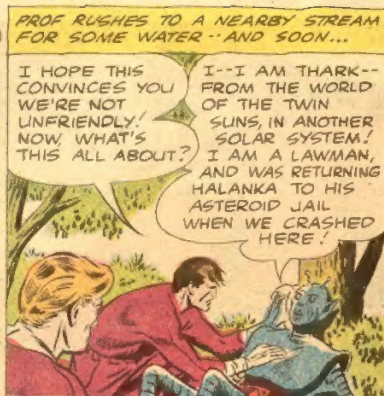
AN ELECTRO-MAGNET!

YES... POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DRAW THAT METALLIC PAL OF YOURS RIGHT TO IT-- AND KEEP HIM PINNED THERE, WHILE WE HANDLE YOU!









BRACED BEHIND THE WHEEL, PROF HEADS THE JEEP INTO THE TEETH OF A TREMENDOUS GALE, AS...

ACE! ROCKY!
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

OUR JEEP IS GONE, AND
ALBOM HAS THE DEVICE IN
OPERATION! HE'S TAMPERING
WITH THE ELEMENTS, PALS,
AND WE'RE TOO LATE TO
STOP HIM!

BRIEFLY, PROF EXPLAINS THE
PRESENCE OF THEIR NEW-FOUND,
ALIEN FRIEND -- AND THEN...

WE MAY **NOT** BE TOO
LATE TO STOP ALBOM
NOW... BUT WE MUST
HURRY!

SHORTLY...

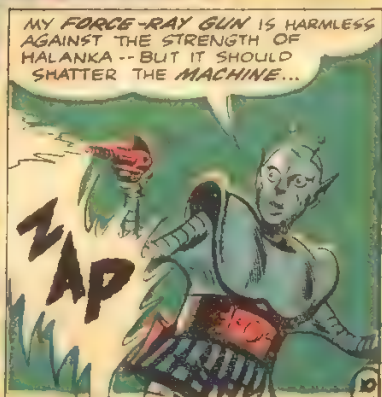
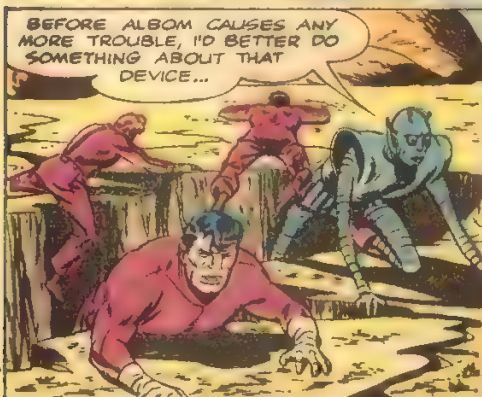
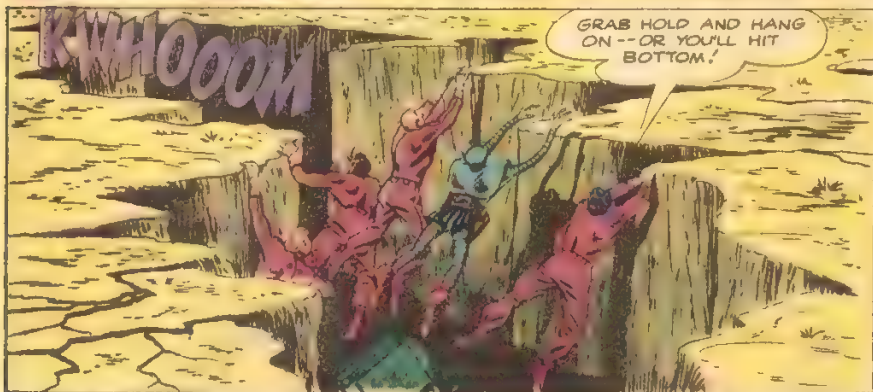
"HA, HA: I AM NOW
MASTER OF THE ELEMENTS!
SEE?... I CAN CREATE MY
OWN HURRICANE -- AND WHIP
THE **CHALLENGERS** OFF THE
FACE OF THE EARTH!

HEAD
FOR
COVER!

NO -- DO NOT
FLEE! MERE
WINDS CANNOT
HARM US!
OBSERVE...

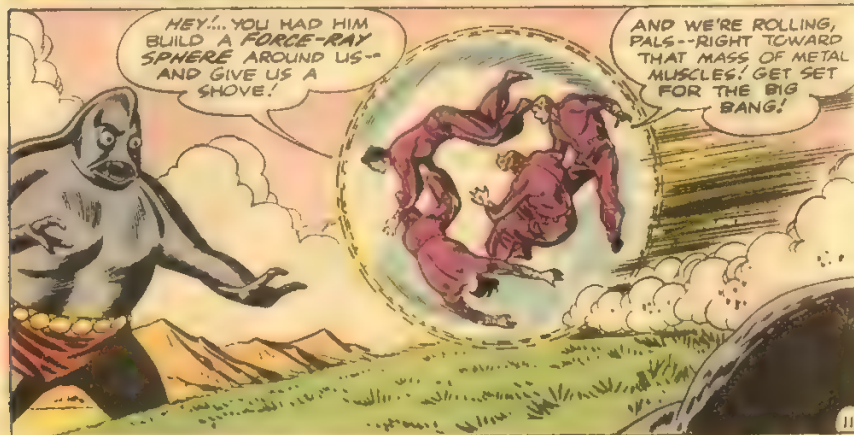
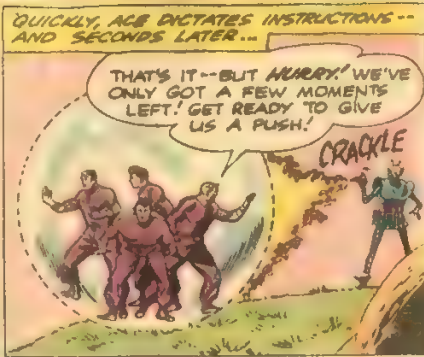
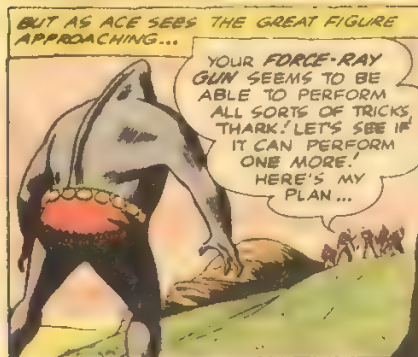
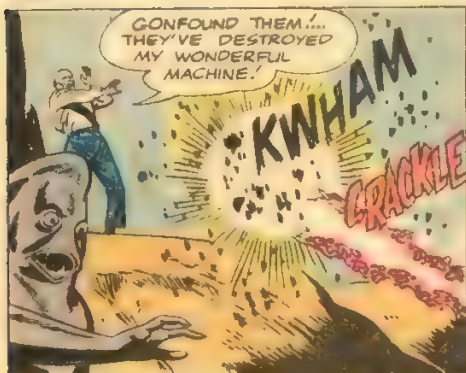
BLAZES!... WHAT DID
YOU DO? WE SEEM
TO BE BEHIND A
PROTECTIVE SHIELD!

INDEED YOU ARE! I
FIRED A **FORCE-RAY**,
ESTABLISHING A
TEMPORARY -- BUT
INVINCIBLE -- WALL IN
FRONT OF US! THE
STORM WILL PASS
US BY!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

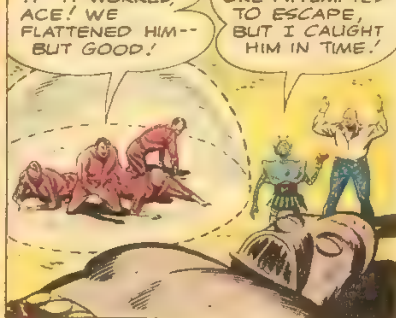


THEY COLLIDE WITH A BOOMING ROAR--
THE MEN WITHIN THE FORCE-RAY
SPHERE AND THE MIGHTY METAL MAN...

AND AS THE SPHERE BEGINS TO
DISSOLVE...

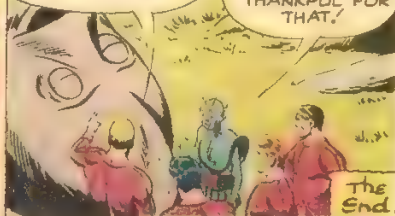
IT--IT WORKED,
ACE! WE
FLATTENED HIM--
BUT GOOD!

THIS OTHER
ONE ATTEMPTED
TO ESCAPE,
BUT I CAUGHT
HIM IN TIME!



NOW, WE'D BETTER
GET THIS BIG LAD
OVER TO THE SPACE
SHIP, THEN HELP
THARK FIX HIS
SHIP AND THAT
SPECIAL CELL--SO
HE CAN GET OFF
ON HIS MISSION!

A MISSION
WHICH WOULD
HAVE BEEN
UTTERLY
HOPELESS,
WITHOUT YOUR
HELP! BOTH
OF OUR WORLDS
SHOULD BE
THANKFUL FOR
THAT!



Dive to a **WHALE** of an Adventure

EVERY TIME YOU JOIN THE

SEA DEVILS

IN THEIR UNDERWATER WORLD!

THE FOUR MUSKETEERS OF THE DEEP
ARE BACK WITH EVEN MORE STARTLING
TALES IN THE **SECOND ISSUE** OF
SEA DEVILS—BUBBLING UP
FROM EVERY PAGE OF OCTOBER



SHOWCASE

ON SALE EVERYWHERE!



JUST IMAGINE!

THE MIGHTIEST HEROES
OF OUR TIME ...



A STAR-STUDDED SPECTACULAR
"WORLD OF NO RETURN!"

THE
THRILLING
EXPLOITS
OF THESE
FAMOUS
CHAMPIONS
APPEAR IN
THE NEW



JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA

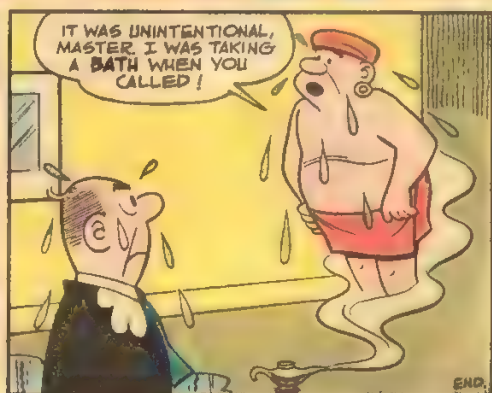
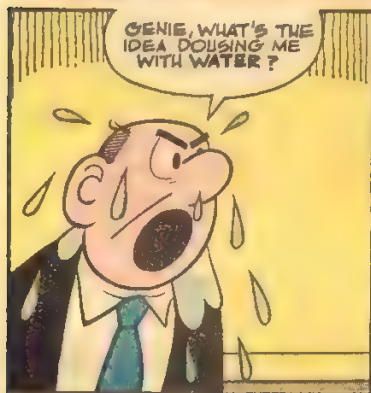
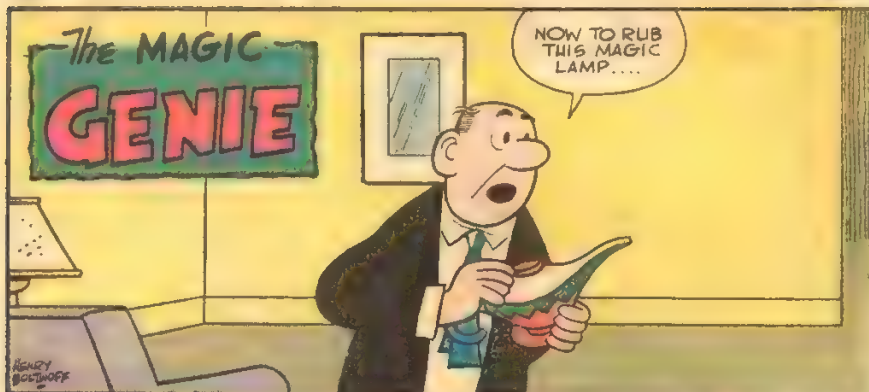
SUPERMAN!
BATMAN!
FLASH!
GREEN LANTERN!
WONDER WOMAN!
AQUAMAN!
J'ONN J'ONZZ--
MANHUNTER FROM MARS!

...HAVE BANDED
TOGETHER AS THE

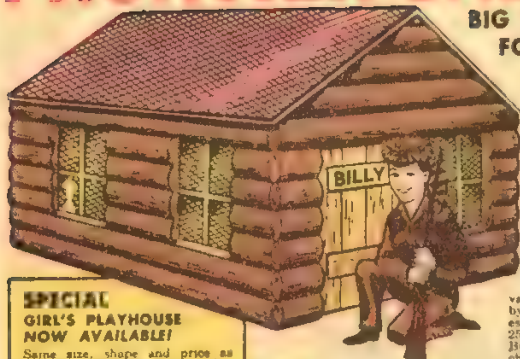
TO STAMP OUT
THE FORCES OF EVIL
WHEREVER AND WHENEVER
THEY APPEAR!

MAGAZINE

ON SALE AUGUST 25th!



FRONTIER CABIN



**BIG ENOUGH
FOR 2-3**

KIDS!

This huge, western-style cabin is a child's dream come true. Size Approx. 3 ft. high - 9 ft. square - 23 cubic ft. inside. Endless hours of play fun. Big enough for 2-3 kids to "Live" in this cabin of their very own. Constructed of specially treated, safe flameproof and waterproof DuPont Polyethylene. Use year 'round, indoors or outdoors. No tools needed, nothing to assemble. Sets up in a jiffy, folds compactly for easy storage. Walls and door are realistically imprinted in authentic brown split-log design. Peaked roof is in contrasting color. In a youngster's imagination it quickly becomes a RANCH HOUSE, FARMHOUSE, PLAYHOUSE or a LIFE SIZE DOLL HOUSE FOR GIRLS. A BIG cabin for \$4.00. This King-size cabin is our greatest bargain in years. A comparable \$100 value now only \$1.00. This sale price is made possible by your buying directly from factory. We are the largest Mfrs. and Distrib. of playhouses in the U.S. Over 250,000 satisfied customers. They make wonderful gifts. Buy several. Add 25¢ each house, postage and handling charges. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s. Special Offer: 5 for \$4.00 GUARANTEE. Try without risk or obligation for ten days. Let the kids play in and enjoy it. If they are not delighted return for immediate refund.

SPECIAL GIRL'S PLAYHOUSE NOW AVAILABLE!

Same size, shape and price as cabin. Imprinted black walls, French windows, folded wood slat shutters, flowers, shrubs, sloping roof, large door etc.

FREE

Large 2"x8" Name Plate fits on door. House can be personalized with child's name.

Orders Shipped Within 24 Hours!

FRONTIER CABIN

Dept. FC-7, 147 West 42 St.
NEW YORK 36, NEW YORK

FRONTIER CABIN

Please send me items checked

I enclose ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ M.O.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

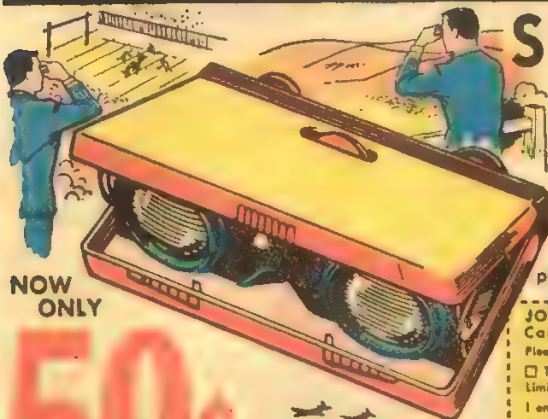
Zone _____

State _____

Dept. FC-7, 147 W. 42 St., N. Y. 36, N. Y.

☐ Frontier Cabin @ \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling
☐ Girl's Playhouse @ \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling
☐ Frontier Cabin or Giant Playhouse or Any Combination - 5 for only \$4.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. Sorry, No C.O.D.'s.

HI-POWER BINOCULARS



**NOW
ONLY**

50¢

Postpaid.
Limit 2
to a customer.

SEE UP TO 18 MILES

Powerful folding Opera Glasses
fit into pocket or purse. Center
eye piece adjustment. Worth many
times low introductory price. Com-
parable to models selling for \$4.95.

JOSELY CO., Dept. MB-5
Carle Place, L.I., N.Y.

Please send me Hi-Power Binoculars.

☐ 1 for 50¢ ☐ 2 for \$1.00.

Limit 2 to a customer.

I enclose: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
Sorry, No C.O.D.'s.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZONE _____

STATE _____

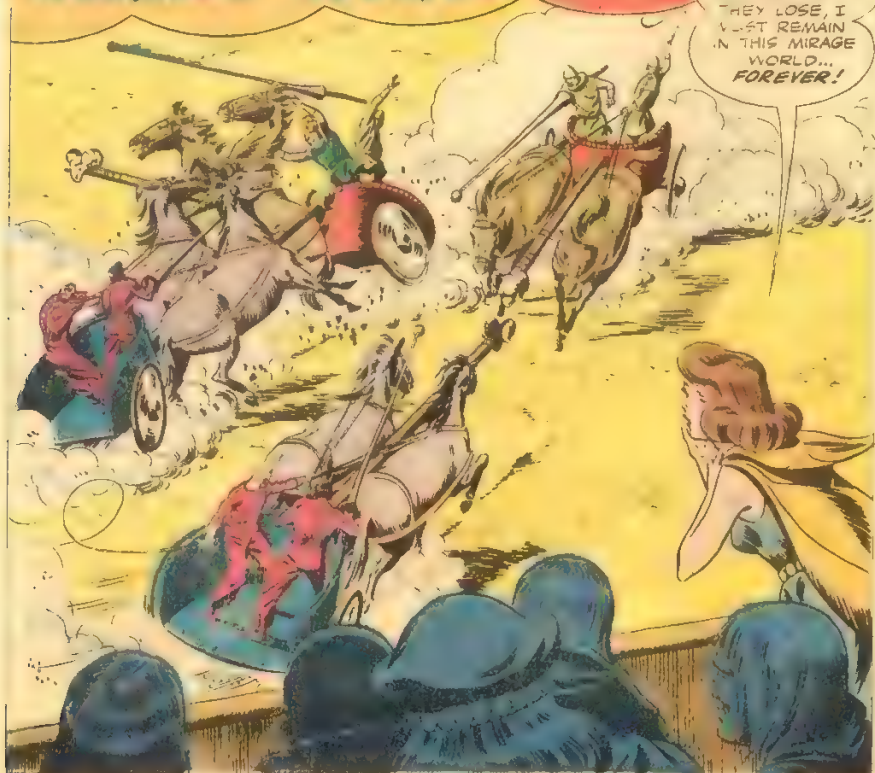


A MIRAGE, SAYS THE DICTIONARY, IS AN OPTICAL ILLUSION, DUE TO ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS, BY WHICH REFLECTED OBJECTS ARE CAST GREAT DISTANCES! A MIRAGE, ACCORDING TO THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, IS A STRANGE, UNEXPLAINED WORLD OF LIVING, BREATHING PEOPLE, WHERE IT IS BEST THAT NO ONE VENTURE! YET, TO SUCH A PLACE GO THE CHALLENGERS THEMSELVES, ONLY TO BECOME...

PRISONERS OF THE MIRAGE WORLD

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

THE
CHALLENGERS
ARE FIGHTING
A DUEL OF
THE CHAROTS--
FOR ME! IF
THEY LOSE, I
MUST REMAIN
IN THIS MIRAGE
WORLD...
FOREVER!



DEEP IN THE GREAT ROCKIES, INSIDE THE LAB-HEADQUARTERS OF CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN, FOUR MEN GROW RESTLESS AS ANXIOUS HOURS DRAG BY...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED TO JUNE! SHE SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE LONG AGO!

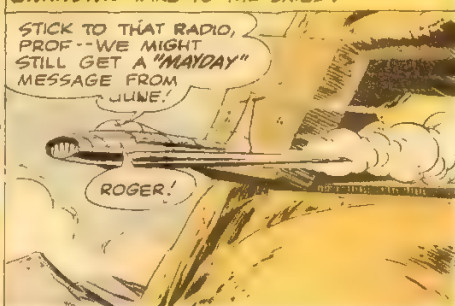
WELL, WE'RE THROUGH WAITING! WE'LL FLY TO THE LAST PLACE WE HEARD FROM HER-- THE DESERT-- AND BEGIN A SEARCH!



THE MASSIVE STONE DOOR OF THE MOUNTAIN LAB SLIDES OPEN--FROM A RUNWAY WITHIN THE ENORMOUS CAVERN ERUPTS A JET CRAFT... AND THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN TAKE TO THE SKIES!

STICK TO THAT RADIO, PROF--WE MIGHT STILL GET A "MAYDAY" MESSAGE FROM JUNE!

ROGER!



IT IS LATE AFTERNOON, OVER SCORCHING DESERT SANDS, WHEN FINALLY THEY SPOT...

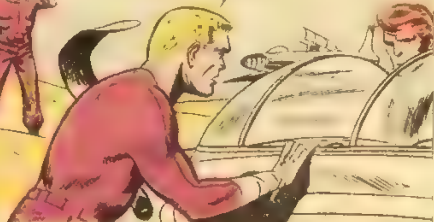
JUNE'S PLANE! SHE CRACKED UP!

WE'RE GOING DOWN...



SOON...

SHE'S NOWHERE IN SIGHT... AND WE CAN'T TELL WHICH WAY SHE WENT, SINCE THE WIND HAS COVERED ALL TRACKS! WE'LL CUT UP INTO TWO PARTIES AND SEARCH IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS!



THE TWO PARTIES COMMENCE THEIR GRIM SEARCH-- UNTIL, ABOUT A QUARTER-MILE FROM THE PLANE...

TRACKS, ROCKY! TRACKS!

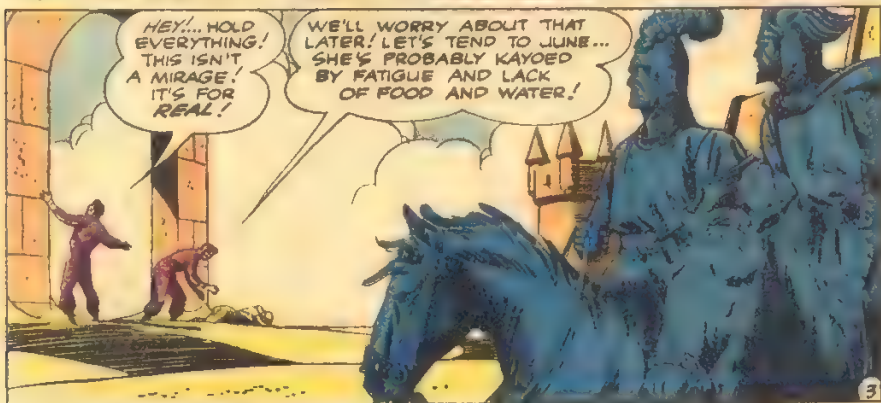
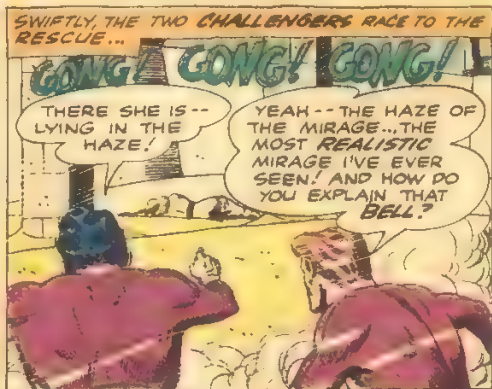
AND LOOK OVER THERE, RED... I SEE JUNE!

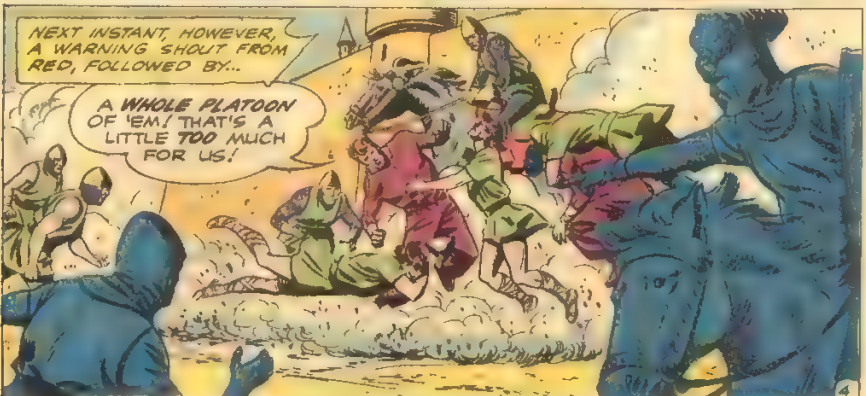
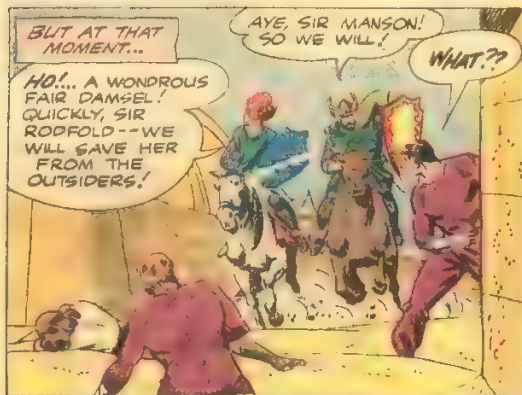


YES, IT IS JUNE! JUNE! JUNE! WAIT FOR US!

SHE SEEMS ALL PLAYED OUT! SHE DOESN'T EVEN HEAR US!









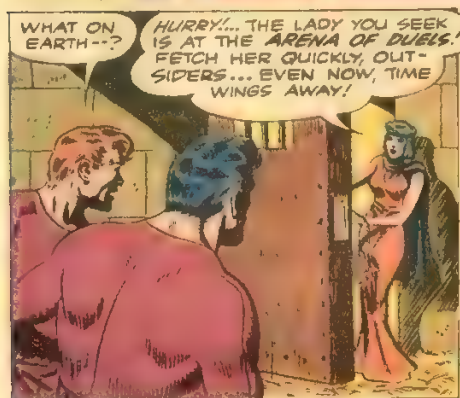
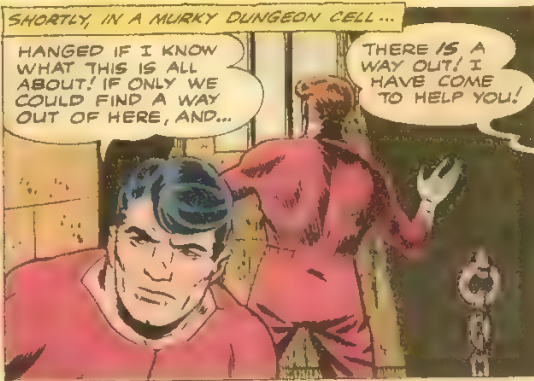
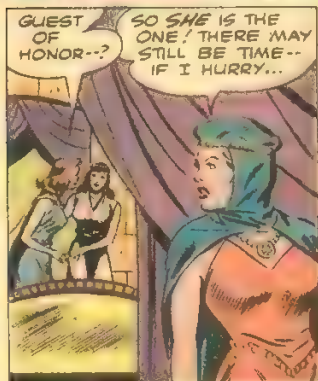
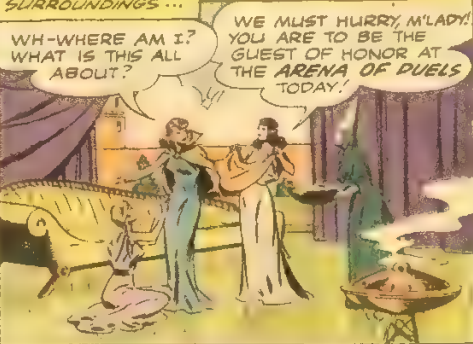
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



OUTNUMBERED, THE TWO CHALLENGERS ARE SOON BROUGHT TO BAY...

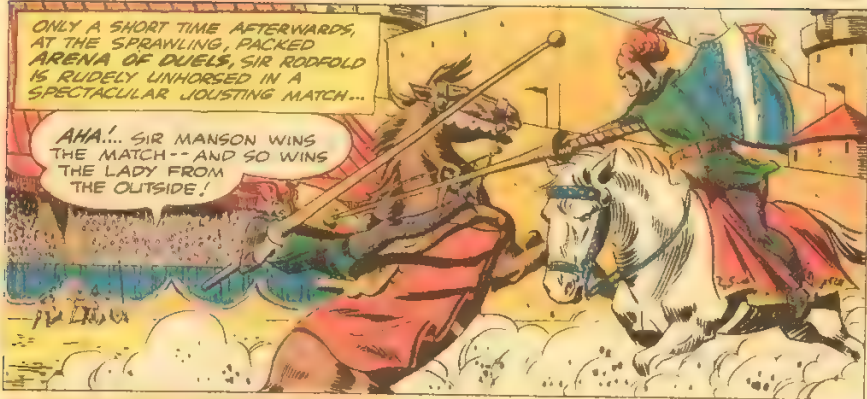


MEANWHILE, WHAT OF JUNE? REVIVING, SOME TIME LATER, SHE FINDS HERSELF IN STRANGE SURROUNDINGS...



ONLY A SHORT TIME AFTERWARDS,
AT THE SPRAWLING, PACKED
ARENA OF DUELS, SIR RODFOLD
IS RUDELY UNHORSED IN A
SPECTACULAR JOUSTING MATCH...

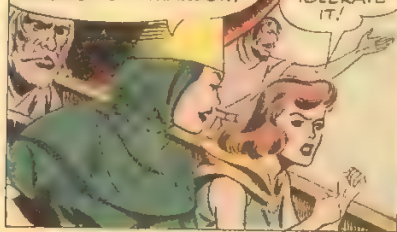
AHA!... SIR MANSON WINS
THE MATCH-- AND SO WINS
THE LADY FROM
THE OUTSIDE!



WHILE IN A CANOPIED GALLERY IN THE
STANDS...

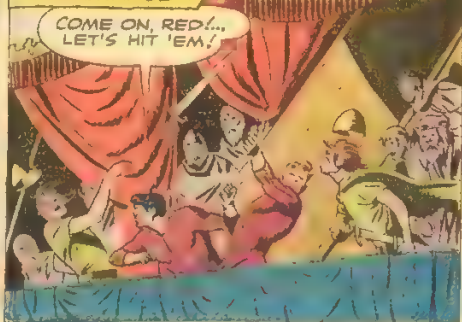
YES, MY DEAR, THE JOUSTING
MATCH WAS HELD TO
DECIDE WHICH OF THE
KNIGHTS WOULD WIN
YOUR HAND! YOU WILL
ADORE SIR MANSON!

THIS IS
INCREDIBLE!
I WON'T
TOLERATE
IT!



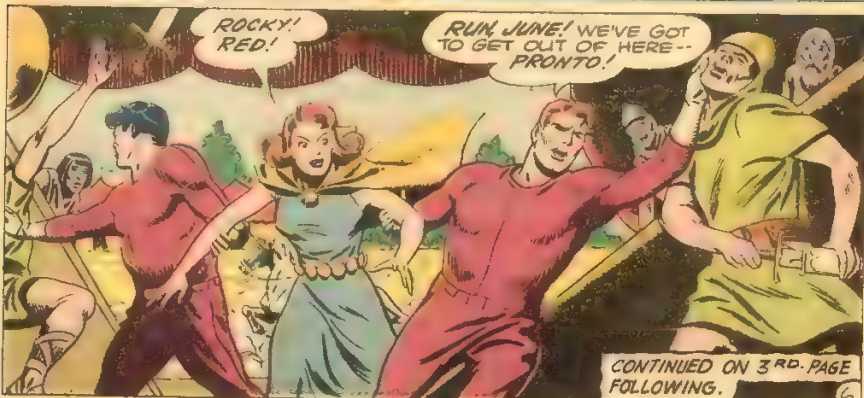
AT THAT MOMENT, WHERE TWO UNSEEN
FIGURES HAVE WAITED, WATCHING FOR
THEIR CHANCE--

COME ON, RED!...
LET'S HIT 'EM!



ROCKY!
RED!

RUN, JUNE! WE'VE GOT
TO GET OUT OF HERE--
PRONTO!



CONTINUED ON 3RD. PAGE
FOLLOWING.

FLIGHT INTO FEAR

THE last thing Blakely thought, before he blacked out, was, "Prof. Gili's experiment is a success." The numbness that had started in his legs and advanced up his body now had seized his brain. He felt the first stab of cold, a paralysis grip his head, then, suddenly, everything turned stygian black.

When he recovered consciousness, Anders was hunched down, rubbing his leg. Blakely shot a glance through the starboard hatch. "We're there, aren't we?" he asked, viewing the snowy wastes illuminated by a strange luminescence.

Anders nodded grimly. "Check. We've touched down on the solar system known as VX-2. Too bad the instruments conked out when we crash-landed, otherwise we'd know how long it took us to reach here. Prof. Gili's theory of freezing us for a long trip and letting us thaw out on arrival paid off, except that it didn't do my leg any good. Luckily, we cracked up when I was thawing out, otherwise it would've been so brittle, it would've been shattered by the impact."

By Blakely's watch, the next 48 hours were spent in observation and tending to Anders' injured leg. Gangrene had set in, and Blakely mused on the ironic inefficiency of man. He could conquer the immeasurable vastness of the universe, but could be conquered by microscopic bacilli. The miracle drugs helped alleviate the pain and reduce the infection, but it was evident that Anders' life was endangered. Blakely had to choose between remaining on their mission or repairing the clogged fuel line and returning to Earth without delay, abandoning their primary mission to collect data.

He chose the latter. By the end of the week, their stock of provisions was running low, and he was extremely weary. Anders, unable to help, lay in a misty-eyed stupor, observing him, never taking his eyes off him.

Blakely never considered what thoughts seared through Anders' feverish mind. "He's

repairing the ship to blast off and abandon me. Food and water soon will reach a critical state. I'm no use to him. He's not going to return to Earth and sacrifice this chance to immortalize himself in inter-solar system travel. He's going to leave me here! Yes, leave me here!"

By the time the ship was in readiness, Blakely's energy deserted him. He collapsed from fatigue. Anders eyed him narrowly. With great effort, he crawled to the toolbox, grasped a wrench, and slithered painfully towards Blakely's prostrate figure. . .

Blakely's first sensation when he came to was one of dizziness coupled with a dull ache that throbbed at the base of his skull. He fingered the globular swelling. And at that moment he became aware that he was lying in a raft, bobbing on the water.

He wrenched himself up, gripping the gun-whale. In the stillness, he could hear the electronic pulses flash through the tangled webs of thin wires, the frantic activity of the ship's engines. Anders was on board. He had knocked him out, Blakely knew, and was leaving him marooned adrift, in space.

He flailed the air, shouting above the whine of the engines. But Anders, in the control booth, paid him no heed. He pulled the accelerator levers of Number 1 and 2 engines, after setting the course for Earth, then, wracked with pain, inched his way into the icing chamber to prepare for the journey. Within moments, the craft shrilled its ascent, gained altitude, seemed to claw the air desperately, then with a gasp plunged into the ocean. It submerged even while Blakely was still trying to signal Anders to return.

For in the distant glow of the aurora borealis, Blakely had seen a vessel steaming towards them through the ice-encrusted water. At that moment, the realization had come to him. They'd never left Earth but had fallen somewhere in the Arctic Ocean.

STRANGE FEARS!

AMONG OLD TIME SAILORS, IT WAS CONSIDERED UNLUCKY TO HAVE DOGS ON BOARD, WHILE CATS WERE REGARDED AS ASSURING FAVORABLE WINDS AND PREVENTING SHIPWRECKS!



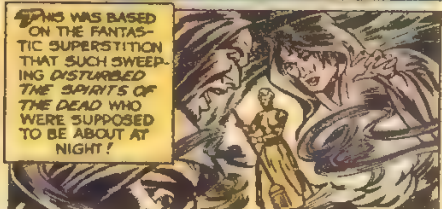
IN CALM WEATHER, SAILORS WHISTLED HOPING TO RAISE A WIND, BUT IN A GALE THEY NEITHER WHISTLED NOR ALLOWED OTHERS TO DO SO, FOR THEY FELT THAT THIS WOULD BRING ON A DISASTROUS STORM!



THE HOUSEWIFE OF YEARS AGO NEVER SWEEP THE FLOORS AT NIGHT BECAUSE SHE FELT THAT THIS WOULD BRING BAD LUCK!



THIS WAS BASED ON THE FANTASTIC SUPERSTITION THAT SUCH SWEEPING DISTURBED THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT AT NIGHT!



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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



THEIR SURPRISE MOVE CARRIES THEM TO THE TOP OF A TIER, WHERE...

WE TIED THIS GETAWAY ROPE HERE EARLIER!

GONG! GONG!

QUICKLY! GET DOWN! THERE GOES THE GONG FOR THE TIME GATE! WE CAN ONLY GET OUT OF HERE WHILE IT'S RINGING!

GONG! GONG! GONG!

HOW LONG DOES THAT BLASTED GATE TO THE OUTSIDE STAY OPEN?

JUST AS LONG AS THE BELL RINGS! WHEN THAT STOPS, PALS, WE'VE HAD IT!

JUST THEN...

GONG! GONG! GONG!

UH-OH... MAYBE WE'VE HAD IT ALREADY! WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED FROM BELOW--AND THEY'RE BUZZING WARNING ARROWS PAST OUR EARS!



IN THE MEANTIME, NOT FAR AWAY...

UP THERE, PROF--SEE? THE TRAIL ENDS... AT THAT MIRAGE!

GONG! GONG! GONG!

AND LISTEN-- A BELL RINGING!



AND AS THESE TWO CHALLENGERS ENTER THE "MIRAGE"...

THIS IS WEIRD! THE TRACKS OF JUNE, ROCKY AND RED LED INTO A-- A MIRAGE WORLD!

GONG! GONG!

OKAY--LET'S START LOOKING FOR OUR THREE PALS, AND TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!



CALUTIOUSLY, THEY MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE TOWN, WHERE...

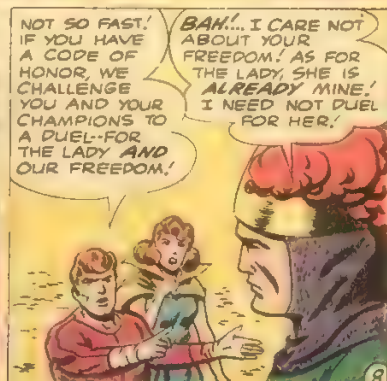
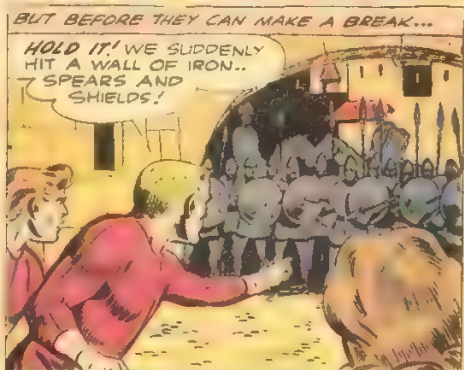
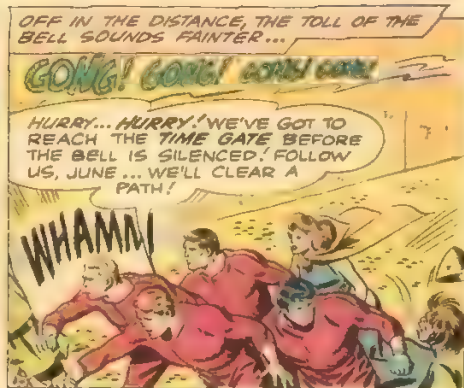
ACE! THERE THEY ARE... IN TROUBLE!

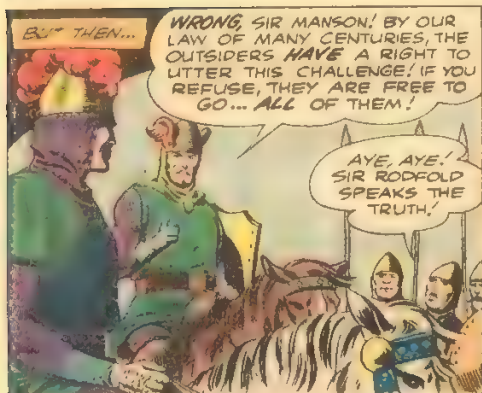
ALL RIGHT, PROF-- LISTEN... WE'LL MAKE A SURPRISE RUSH AT THE GUARDS, AND IN THE CONFUSION WE MIGHT PULL OFF A WHOLESALE GETAWAY! LET'S MOVE!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN





THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE INTREPID CHALLENGERS FIND THEMSELVES ALONE, UNGUARDED...

WHAT MAKES THEM SO SURE WE WON'T DECIDE TO LEAVE NOW?

THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE--UNTIL THE BELL SOUNDS FOR THE THIRD AND FINAL TIME, AT THE APPROACH OF EVENING! UNTIL THEN, THERE IS NO WAY BACK TO OUR WORLD!



JUNE'S RIGHT...THE BELL OPENS A TIME GATE--THE SAME ONE THROUGH WHICH WE ALL ENTERED THIS PLACE!

YES.. IT OPENS THREE TIMES ON A CERTAIN DAY, JUST ONCE EVERY 100 YEARS! WHEN IT'S CLOSED FOR THE LAST TIME, IT STAYS CLOSED FOR A FULL CENTURY!



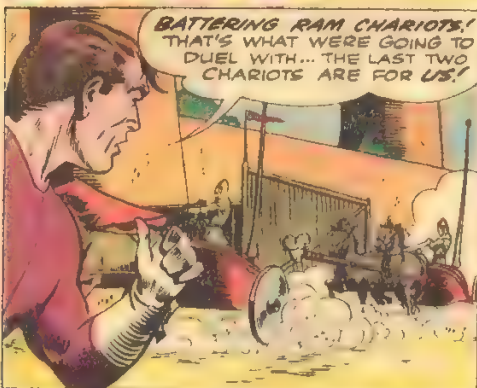
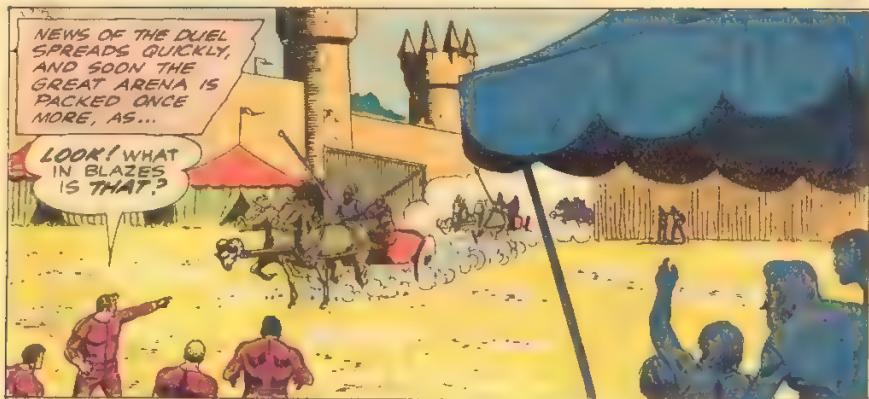
THEN WE'VE GOT TO WIN THAT DUEL AND OUR FREEDOM--OR BE STUCK HERE THE REST OF OUR LIVES!

WITH MANSON CLAIMING JUNE!



THE FOOLS! LITTLE DO THEY REALIZE THAT I HAVE ENCOURAGED THIS CONTEST FOR MY OWN GAIN!



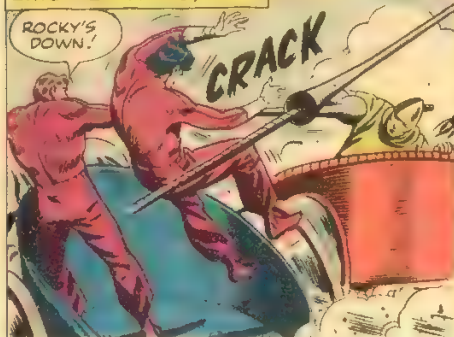




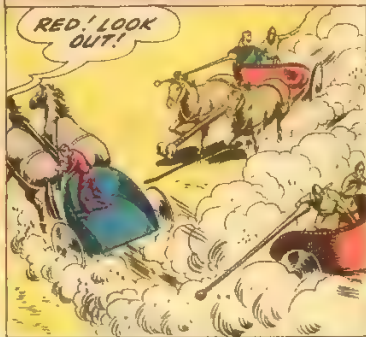
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



ROCKY'S OPPONENT COMES IN UNDER HIS EXTENDED LANCE, AND...



AND AS RED, STARTLED, TURNS TO LOOK FOR HIS CHARIOT MATE...



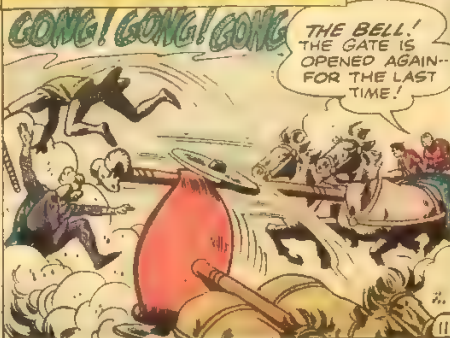
BUT TOO LATE RED SEES THE ONCOMING BATTERING RAM...



TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME!



AS ACE'S CHARIOT RAMS INTO SIR MANSON'S, A FAMILIAR SOUND IS HEARD...



IT IS THEN THAT THE WAITING SIR RODFOLD MAKES HIS MOVE...

TURN ME LOOSE!

GONG! GONG!

HURRY--GET HER INTO THE CHARIOT!



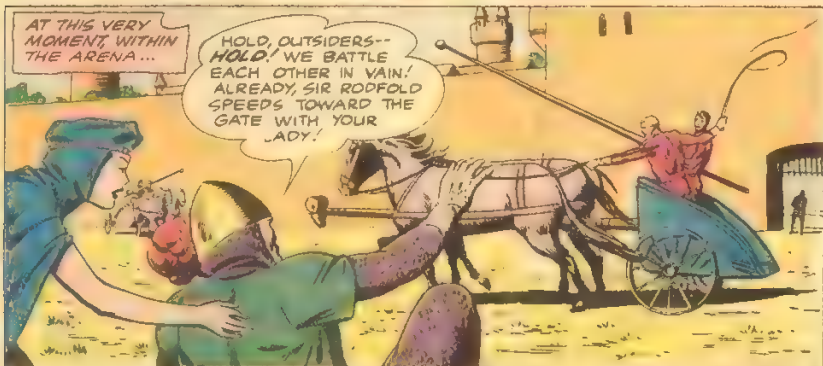
I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO VENTURE INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD! NOW IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE TIME GATE, WITH YOU AS MY PRIZE--LEAVING THE OTHERS HERE, FOREVER!

NO--NO! YOU CAN'T! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THEM HERE!



AT THIS VERY MOMENT, WITHIN THE ARENA...

HOLD, OUTSIDERS--HOLD! WE BATTLE EACH OTHER IN VAIN! ALREADY, SIR RODFOLD SPEEDS TOWARD THE GATE WITH YOUR LADY!



FAIR MELISSA BROUGHT ME THE NEWS! GO, OUTSIDERS--GO FOR YOUR LADY! THE BELL SHAN'T TOLL MUCH LONGER!

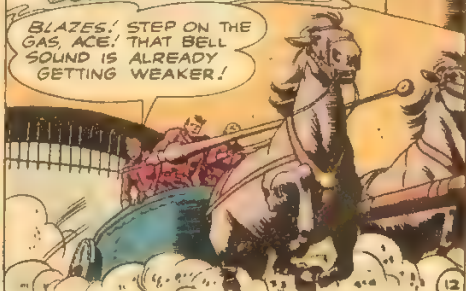
GONG! GONG! GONG!

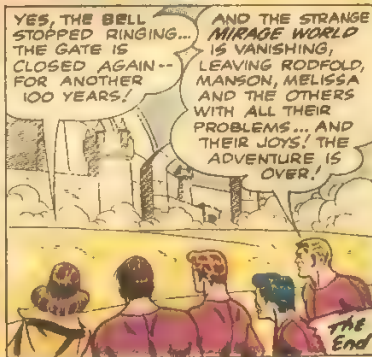
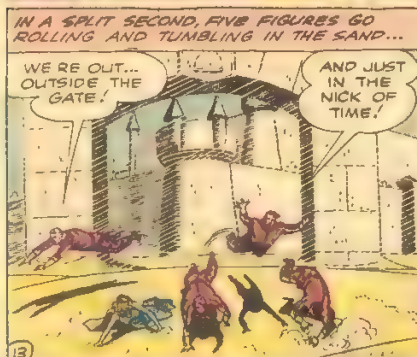
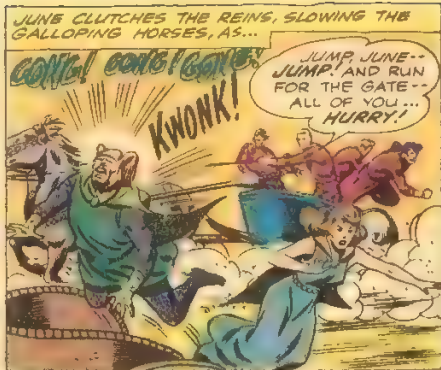
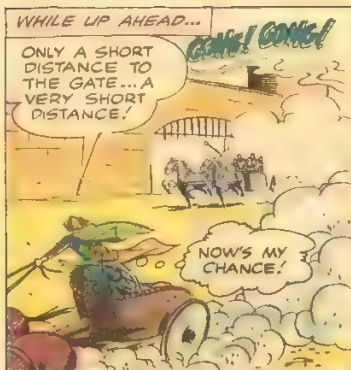


AN ARENA BARRIER IS FLUNG OPEN, AND OUT ROARS THE CHARIOT...

GONG! GONG! GONG!

BLAZES! STEP ON THE GAS, ACE! THAT BELL SOUND IS ALREADY GETTING WEAKER!





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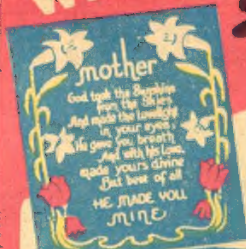
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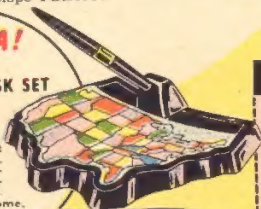
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